

## **DISCIPLINE POLICIES AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

The Ozark Mountain School District recognizes that a sound and fairly administered student discipline policy is essential for providing the proper atmosphere for learning in our school. The School Board and Administration fully support this philosophy and will strive to provide such an environment for students.

The School Board will instruct the Superintendent of Schools, in cooperation with principals and teachers to establish codes of conduct which state clearly and precisely in written form specified rules and regulations. Such rules or regulations shall:

- A. Be based on policies of the Ozark Mountain School Board for the improvement of education. If a rule or regulation prohibits an action, the reason shall be specified.
- B. Be as precise as possible and sufficiently adapted to the needs of youth served by the school.
- C. Be considered reasonable and proper.

Principals shall have both the authority and the duty to take disciplinary action whenever the behavior of any student (s) materially interferes with or substantially disrupts maintenance of a proper atmosphere for learning within classrooms or other parts of schools.

Notice of the rules and regulations existing in each school shall be disseminated to students and parents in a wide variety of ways (student assemblies, PTA meetings, public address announcements, and student handbooks, etc.)

Application of disciplinary measures shall at all times reflect a fair and reasonable exercise of authority. Disciplinary measures shall not be arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory, or otherwise unreasonable. Procedural due process, to the extent of its applicability in any particular situation, shall be afforded all students prior to imposition of punishment. The degree afforded shall be proportionate both to the gravity of the offense and the severity of the contemplated penalty, as outlined in the Board's policies relative to suspension, expulsion, and corporal punishment.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. 1983; Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District 89 S. Ct. 733 (1979); Goss v. Lopez, 95 S. Ct. 779 (1975); Wood v. Strickland, 95 S. Ct. 992 (1975); AR. Stat. Ann. 80-1629; Arkansas Commission on Pupil Discipline in Public Schools, Model School Board Policies for Student Discipline, ACT 104 of 1983, First Extraordinary Session

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

A variety of corrective measures are authorized for the breach of rules applicable to students. The corrective measure to be employed shall be determined in each case by the principal or his designee, the classroom teacher, or other appropriate educational staff member, except where School Board action is required. Such measures may include the use of reasonable force in the exercise of lawful authority to restrain or correct students and to maintain order. Minor infractions ordinarily will not justify the imposition of severe corrective measures. Repeated minor infractions that are not amenable to corrections by lesser measures may justify the use of more severe measures. Ozark Mountain Schools follow a discipline policy that begins with a reprimand and follows steps up to and including suspension or expulsion.

## **DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS**

Admonition and counseling should be used when appropriate to assist a student to understand when his/her conduct interferes with the educational progress, interferes with the educational progress of others, disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school, or threatens the rights of others. The following is a list of corrective measures that may be used at Ozark Mountain Schools. These

measures may be used singularly or in combination with other measures, if necessary.

**Reprimand** - Conference between student and faculty member calling attention to the student's improper conduct.

**Additional Duties** - Minor infractions may be resolved using solutions that require performing additional room or campus duties.

**Noon Detention /After School Detention**– May be used for students failing to follow rules, failure to complete homework and/or classroom assignments. The student may be assigned to noon detention until these assignments are completed. In cases of student misbehavior, five detentions in a 9 week period will result in a referral to the principal for further disciplinary action as determined by the administrator.

**Deprivation of Privileges** – This form of discipline is encouraged when the student has developed a pattern of chronically repeating minor offenses. Deprived privileges may include but not be limited to a loss of driving/parking privileges, suspension from extracurricular activities, and denied access to school functions.

**Principal/Student Conference** - A conference between the principal and the student to discuss the student's behavior.

**Principal/Parent Conference** - The severity of an infraction, or the frequent occurrence of infractions, may necessitate a conference between the principal and the parents of the student. Parents should not expect a report on every problem that arises.

**Referral to other school personnel:** (counselor, social worker, nurse, etc.).

**Referral to out-of-school personnel:** (physician, psychologist, drug or alcohol treatment center, law enforcement personnel, etc.).

**In-School Suspension** - Students may be assigned by the principal an In-School Suspension on a temporary basis when staff is available to supervise the suspension; and when such assignment does not disrupt the normal school routine.

**Corporal Punishment** - This may be used for behavior which interferes with the education of others, disrupts the orderly operation of the school, threatens any individual's well-being, or knowingly violates school rules (Act 333 or 1995). Attention to alternative discipline procedures shall be made before imposition of corporal punishment. Corporal punishment may be administered by any certified staff member in the presence of an administrator or his designee.

**Alternative School Program** – When it appears that a student cannot conform to acceptable behavioral standards in the regular school program, the principal may recommend placement in an alternative school program.

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES MAY BE APPLIED FOR BUS INFRACTIONS.**